



# St Thomas' Cathedral

Mumbai • Estd 1718

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

## The Second Sunday before Lent Sexagesima



*"...having heard the Word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."  
St Luke 8*

### TEXT FOR THE DAY

Jesus uses parables to change our ways of seeing things. The Gospel this morning is that of the parable of the sower. The fruitfulness of the seed is determined by the quality of the soil in which it falls. Similarly the fruitfulness of the word of God is determined by the openness of heart of the person who receives it. We grow at our own pace. God is patient with this growth. Some commentators see in this parable the kernel of the whole Gospel. The seed is sown, its fruitfulness is neither automatic nor assured for every heart, but when it lands on good ground it bears fruit of surprising abundance, that more than makes up for the seed that falls on poor soil.

The Word of God is given to me as a gift. I pray that I may allow its goodness to take root in my life and yield a fertile harvest, leading me in the ways of truth and love.

*Excerpts from 'Sacred Space' – a blog by the Irish Jesuits*

Sunday 7 February 2021

8.45 am

Welcome

# |The Preparation & Gathering|

Prelude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons ('Song 22')

**Voluntary**  
C. V. Stanford (1852 - 1924)

*Please stand as the procession enters.*

"Praise to the Holiest in the Height"

**Hymn**  
Sung by the Cantors.

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.
3. And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.
4. Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

Words: J. H. Newman (1801 -90)  
Music: J. B. Dykes (1823 -76) • Tune: GERONTIUS

## Call to Worship

*The Presbyter* Come to the Sower of seeds, Planter of hearts.

*All* **We come this morning to the enriched,  
fertile ground of God's love.**

*The Presbyter* Come away from the stony ground, away from the strangling weeds.

*All* **Let our roots be strengthened and our hearts flourish.**

*The Presbyter* Come and worship God.

*All sit.*

## Welcome

## Adoration

*The Presbyter* O Lord, open our lips:

*All* **And our mouth shall declare your praise.**

*The Presbyter* Early in the morning we make our prayer to you, O Lord;

*All* **Surely you will hear our voice.**

*The Presbyter* Your light springs up for the nations

*All* **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

*The Presbyter* Glory to the Father, our Creator;  
Glory to the Son, our Redeemer;  
Glory to the Spirit, who sanctifies us

*All* **As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
to the end of the ages. Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*All say*

**O God most holy and merciful,  
we confess that we have sinned  
against you and one another,  
in thought and word and deed,  
and in what we have not done.  
Therefore we pray you to have mercy on us,  
and forgive us our sins. Amen.**

*The Presbyter says*

The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, grace to amend our life, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Christ have mercy on us.**  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
**All Amen.**

*All say the Lord's Prayer*

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come;  
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil:  
for Thine is the Kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

|The Ministry of the Word|

## The Collect for Sexagesima

*The Presbyter*

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. .

**All Amen.**

AND the Lord God called to Adam, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm • 24. 1 - 5**

*Sung by the Cantors to a chant by Crotch*

1. THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is:  
the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.
2. For he hath founded it upon the seas: and prepared it upon the floods.
3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord: or who shall rise up in his holy place?
4. Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.
5. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord: and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

*All stand for the Gloria Patri.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:*

*As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

**The Epistle**

*from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 11. 19-31*

*Paul boasts about his sufferings*

YOU gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face. To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more.

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

“Oft in danger, oft in woe”

### The Gradual

*While seated, follow the words as the Cantors sing.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Oft in danger, oft in woe,<br/>         onward, Christians, onward go;<br/>         bear the toil, maintain the strife,<br/>         strengthened with the Bread of Life.</p> | <p>2. Let not sorrow dim your eye;<br/>         soon shall every tear be dry;<br/>         let not fears your course impede;<br/>         great your strength, if great your need.</p> |
| <p>3. Onward then in battle move;<br/>         more than conquerors ye shall prove;<br/>         though opposed by many a foe,<br/>         Christian soldiers, onward go.</p>      |  |

*Words: H. Kirke White (1785 -1806), Frances Fuller-Maitland and others (1827)  
 Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805 -76) • UNIVERSITY COLLEGE*

*All*

*The Gospeller*  
*All*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### The Gospel of Christ

*St. Luke 8.4-15*

When the Gospel is announced *all say* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

#### The Parable of the Sower

WHEN much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way-side, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundred-fold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way-side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe, and be saved. They on the rock are they which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

*The Gospeller* This is the Gospel of Christ.  
*All say* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*The Cantors sing*

Sing them over again to me,  
wonderful words of life;  
let me more of their beauty see,  
wonderful words of life;  
words of life and beauty  
teach me faith and duty.

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life;  
beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life.*

*Philip Bliss (1838 - 1876)*

*Remain standing and recite together.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth:  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*All sit.*

## **The Sermon**

*The Revd Avinash Rangayya*

*Please stand.*

## | The Sharing of the Peace |

*The Presbyter* Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of  
one body you are called to peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour.  
Please kneel as able or sit.*

## **Invocation**

*Sung by the soloist*

*“Take my hand, precious Lord”*

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone.  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand, lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*Thomas A. Dorsey (1899 -1993)*

## | The Prayers of the People |

Jesus, you sow yourself  
the Word of Truth, generously;  
the Word of Life, graciously.  
Defend us from the Evil One  
who seeks to snatch us away. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Fortify us for hard times and costly discipleship.  
That we may endure. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Deliver us from distraction,  
from worldly desires and  
all that would lure us and choke us with false promises. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Till us,  
turn us.  
Enrich us with every blessing of your Spirit  
that we may be good, good soil  
forever faithful and fruitful for you. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Source of life and hope make us aware of our opportunities for witness and  
service, even in unlikely places. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Focus our attention on our responsibilities, and not on the impact of what we are doing as Your  
disciples. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who are oppressed by crushing political and economic  
circumstances; especially remembering the people of Myanmar and for a peaceful resolution to  
the farmers' agitation in our country. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Empower, encourage and endorse the disciples of Jesus who try to address the needs of the iso-  
lated and lonely, often at enormous personal cost. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick in mind, body and spirit, the dying, and those who care for them, that they  
may always be aware of the presence of Your spirit among them and in their daily lives. Heal the  
nations of the world. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Help us be good soil, O God,  
prepared to receive your love and to grow in that love. **Amen.**

*All stand and say*

**Closing Prayer** *All say together*

Bless and renew our lives, we pray,  
so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places,  
strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously,  
to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. **Amen.**

**Benediction** *The Presbyter*

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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Worship material for this service bulletin has been sourced from:

- *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* <https://www.churchofengland.org>
- *The Book of Common Prayer*
- *Morning and Evening Prayer of The Church of North India*
- *The Church of Scotland weekly services*
- *St John's Lutheran Church (N. Carolina)*
- *Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies*
- *The English Hymnal (1933), Oxford University Press*
- *'Inspirational Music' (Wise Publications)*

“Joyful, joyful we adore Thee”

## Hymn at the Closing

Follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!
2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Centre of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Blossoming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry van Dyke, Jr (1852 – 1933)

Music: Ludwig von Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

## The Dismissal

The Presbyter

All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Postlude

David Lasky (b. 1957)

Trumpet tune on “Hymn to Joy”

## ~~~ Prayer Requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † all those who are unable to physically attend church services. Especially pray for all senior citizens.
- † the congregation of this Cathedral and the ministry of the Revd Avinash Rangayya and his family.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of Patna and the Most Revd Dr. P. P. Marandih (former Moderator, CNI)
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Medak and the Rt Revd A. C. Solomon Raj.
- † in the Anglican Communion, the Church in Burundi and the Most Revd Martin Nyaboho.
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. There will be services at 7am and 6pm.
- You may place your offering in the box at the entrance. There will be no offertory collection

### ~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Leena Khan (9), Rebekah Paul (11), Rhea John (12)

### ~~~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~~~

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.

Sanjay & Sonal Parmar (10), Raj & Ann Iype (11)

**As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly comply with the following:**

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times throughout the service.
- Congregational singing is not yet permitted.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.
- Please take this service bulletin home with you. It is mandatory to do so.
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Avoid gathering outside in groups.
- Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of the Liturgy of the Word. Read the Diocesan advisory carefully.

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Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.